

The Commoner. ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher Editorial Rooms and Business Office 224-330 South 12th Street

One Year \$1.00 Three Months .25 Six Months .50 Single Copy .05 In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75 Sample Copies Free. Foreign Post. 5c Extra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

DISCONTINUANCES—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless subscribers order discontinuance, either when subscribing or at any time during the year.

PRESENTATION COPIES—Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to that effect they will receive attention at the proper time.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 21, '09, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1909. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

CIRCULATING THE COMMONER

The Commoner has entered upon its tenth volume. In January, 1901, the first issue of The Commoner made its appearance. In that issue Mr. Bryan said: "The Commoner will be satisfied if, by fidelity to the common people, it proves its right to the name which has been chosen."

Do you believe The Commoner has proved its right to this name?

Do you believe that it stands for popular government, according to its editor's honest judgment? Do you believe that in the great contest that is now being waged between the masses and the men who, within and without law, have been granted undue privileges, The Commoner may be depended upon to battle for the public interests? If you believe this, then you are in a position to aid the cause of popular government by participating in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation. In order to enable you to help a special rate of 60 cents in clubs of five has been made.

The sum of \$3.00 will take The Commoner to five of your neighbors for a period of one year. Will you help?

ELKINS ON "MODERN THOUGHT"

A Washington dispatch printed in the Philadelphia North American stated that Senator Elkins would introduce the president's "railroad reform bill" in the senate, and added: "Elkins, formerly a foe of such legislation, has reached the conclusion that the bill fairly represents modern thought. He says that public opinion demands the government regulation of the railroads and does not consider this objectionable so long as it stops short of governmental management."

Does any republican believe that Senator Elkins is a reformer with respect to railroad legislation? Is it possible that republicans who have been "loyal" to a fault, can not read a striking challenge to their present day confidence in the reports of the enthusiasm with which trust magnates and railroad representatives embrace the "reform legislation" proposed by the gentleman who was elected under the popular impression that he would "carry out the Roosevelt policies?"

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

THE DEMOCRATIC POSITION ON THE TARIFF

Hon. E. F. Dunne, former mayor of Chicago, spoke at the Jackson Day banquet at Jackson, Mich., taking as his subject "The Democratic Position on the Tariff." Judge Dunne spoke in part as follows:

From the time of the foundation of this American republic up to within a few years before the election of Andrew Jackson to the presidency, the cause of human equality in that republic seemed to have been permanently assured, until it was discovered that a powerful plutocracy was undermining the democracy of the country by the insidious and underground machinations of the United States bank, chartered by the government under a law which gave the control of that great institution to a few private capitalists.

On Jackson's accession to the presidency, he was quick to recognize the seriousness of the situation. The bank controlled a capital of fifty million, more potent for evil at that time in the hands of unscrupulous men than would be five billion dollars today. It subsidized, or otherwise controlled most of the influential papers of the country, as does the "system" of our own day. It dominated or was allied with the other banks and bankers of the country. It controlled "society." Such men as Webster, Clay and Calhoun were its spokesmen in the senate. Its tentacles were clutching both congress and the courts. Its charter was soon to expire. Appreciating the overwhelming and malevolent influence it was exercising over the government of that day, Jackson promptly opened the war of democracy against plutocracy, which has been waged with varying fortunes in this republic from Jackson's day to the present time.

He declared himself as opposed to the renewal of the United States Bank charter, and ordered that the moneys of the government be deposited in other banks. After the bitterest struggle in the political history of America during which the senate denounced the president as worthy of impeachment because he refused to allow government funds to be deposited in the United States Bank, Jackson finally triumphed and the charter of the bank was not renewed. It died, mourned only by the "interests" and capitalists of that day.

The first battle between democracy and plutocracy under Jackson's leadership was emphatically in favor of democracy. From the effects of that struggle the demoralized forces of plutocracy did not recover until the close of the civil war. During that terrible conflict when the life of the nation was at stake, it became necessary to raise a huge war fund. One of the methods of so doing was the imposition of a high import tariff, which was acceded to and voted for by all parties. This was done as a distinctive "war measure." At the end of the war, however, the forces of plutocracy craftily resisted the reduction of the tariff. Getting control of the republican party the so-called "interests" succeeded in dictating the terms of every tariff law passed by the republican party with the result that each successive tariff bill has been higher and more outrageously oppressive upon the people than its predecessor.

While their tariff bills, framed by and in the interests of a few manufacturers and to the injury of the masses were being placed upon the statute books by the republican party at the demand of plutocracy, the democratic party in congress and in its national platform was constantly protesting and fighting in the interests of the masses.

In 1892 the democratic national platform declared: "We denounce republican protection as a fraud, a robbery of the great majority of the American people for the benefit of the few. We demand that the collection of such taxes shall be limited to the necessities of the government when honestly and economically administered."

The democratic platform of 1896 again declared: "We hold that the tariff duties should be levied for purposes of revenue, such duties to be so adjusted as to operate equally throughout the country and not discriminate between class or section and that taxation should be limited by the needs of the government honestly and economically administered."

In 1900 the same party in national conven-

tion assembled, adopted the following plank in its platform: "Tariff laws should be amended by putting the products of the trusts upon the free list to prevent monopoly under the plea of protection. We condemn the Dingley tariff law as a trust breeding measure, shamefully devised to give the few favors which they do not deserve and to place upon the many burdens which they should not bear."

In 1904, the same party declared: "We denounce the republican tariff as a robbery of the many to enrich the few, and we favor a tariff limited to the needs of the government economically administered and so levied as not to discriminate against any industry, class or section."

In 1908, at Denver, the same party declared: "We favor immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of our import duties. Articles entering into competition with trust controlled products should be placed upon the free list, and material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessities of life, especially upon such articles as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home."

While the democratic party in its national convention was thus solemnly protesting against the iniquity of the robber tariff, its representatives in congress were engaged in constant warfare against the passage of the measures devised by the trusts and monopolies of the country and placed upon the statute books by the subservient republican party, whose war chests before and during every election were filled with the moneys necessary to subsidize a venal press and debauch an electorate.

As the Roman legions put the diadem of the empire upon the auction block, so the republican party has placed the policy of that party and the choice of its leadership in the hands and control of the men and corporations who would contribute the biggest election fund.

But the struggle of the democratic party against vested privilege and legalized robbery has been in vain for the time being. Strongly entrenched in power, and enriched with the ill-gotten gains of the beneficiaries of this iniquitous legislation the republican party has grown bolder and more reckless of human rights.

In 1908 that party, forced by the general discontent and resentment of the masses at the steady and outrageous increase in the cost of the necessities of life, produced by the high tariff legislation and the outspoken protest of thousands of voters who had been voting fatuously the republican ticket pledged itself in its national platform to the revision of the tariff. Although in specific language the pledge was not for a revision downward, every honest republican and the independent voters of the country, knowing of the evils entailed upon the country by the high tariffs of the Dingley act, believed the republican party pledged itself to a revision downward. The democrats of the country knew different, and knew that the beneficiaries of the Dingley act, who controlled the policies of that party, had succeeded in inserting into the republican platform such equivocal language as would enable the party after the election to betray the people by a revision which would enable the party in power to more effectually rob and despoil the people.

But the republican spellbinders and notably, the republican nominee, now President Taft, during the campaign, kept constantly assuring the gullible public that upon Mr. Taft's election, the Dingley act would be repealed and a tariff act passed which would lighten the burdens then pressing upon the shoulders of the middle and lower classes. In a word, they construed the platform and promised the people a revision downward.

These promises had been shamelessly broken. The people relying upon their promises, especially coming from the candidate for the presidency, elected him president of the United States.

Again successful at the polls the republican party repudiated its campaign pledges, turned from the people to its idols and financial backers, the lords of special privileges. Although a trusty friend of the trusts presided over an equally trusty senate and the trust operated jumping-jack Joe Cannon jerked the house of representatives up and down with him at each push or pull of the trusts, the people hoped that Presi-